The RARS Exciter

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

Issue 264 - March, 1992 - Club Repeaters: 146.64 -, 147.57, 224.64 -, 445.5+, 445.95+

Birthday Party/Awards Banquet

Hear Ye, Hear Ye:

The annual RARS Birthday Party/Awards Banquet is scheduled to be held on the date/time of the next RARS meeting (Wednesday, March 4, 1992). Tickets are available from N4BYO-Jim (781-9437).

RARS members, spouses and up to 1 guest/member $3.00 each. RARS children (under 10) are free!

Advance ticket sales are required to allow for accurate ordering of food and beverage. If you are planning on coming, please notify Jim (via telephone or radio) and he will set your tickets aside (for pickup at the door). No tickets are to be sold at the door (current plan-subject to change). **Please reserve tickets early!**

A clown will be there to entertain the children (and young at heart) during the awards/socializing periods.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE! Jim DuBreck N4BYO

SPECIAL RARS TREASURER ELECTION

To comply with the RARS Bylaws, a special election will be held at the regular March 4th RARS club meeting. The election is to fill the unexpired term of retiring RARS Treasurer Tim Buehlmann, N4IQA.

The nominating committee, consisting of K4HF and KB4MDZ, hereby announces Bernard Blackmon, KC4UPZ, as the committee nomination. After any nominations from the floor the election will be held.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS), founded in 1969, has grown to be one of the premier radio clubs in North Carolina. Current membership exceeds 440.

The objectives of the club are to promote world wide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communication in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique, and to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

All persons interested in Amateur Radio, currently licensed or not, are eligible to apply for membership to the club.

Dues to the club are $12.00 per year (which runs from July 1 to June 30). Applications for membership may be obtained from any of the officers named below; from the newsletter editor, named on the facing column; or at any RARS Meeting.

Club meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month, 7:30 PM, at the Raleigh YMCA, 1601 Hillsborough St.

In addition to the many social and special events, the club sponsors a 2 m repeater, W4DW, on 146.04/64 MHz. The club also sponsors repeaters on 223.04 / 224.64 MHz, 444.5 / 449.5 MHz, 444.95 / 449.95 MHz and a packet cluster node on 147.57 MHz. All repeaters cover Raleigh, and most of the surrounding Wake County area. Auto-patch privileges are available on W4DW to duly licensed RARS members. Future plans call for additional repeaters on the 50 MHz amateur band.

1992Officers:

President: Walter Price, KM4BU
420 Oak Ridge
Cary, NC 27511
481-3856

Vice President: Anita Kellum, KC4AQB
208 Chatterson Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615
846-7455

Secretary: Liz White, KO4CK
PO Box 13315
RTP, NC 27709
481-2874

Treasurer: Tim Buehlmann, N4IQA
1314 Chaney Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
851-7738

The EXCITER is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and is mailed at no cost to its members.

Letters to the Editor, technical articles, items of interest to the ham community and guest editorials are actively solicited.

Any article published in the EXCITER does not necessarily represent the views of, the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society Membership, nor does publication thereof represent concurrence by the Officers, Board of Directors, Editor, or Society membership with the contents of the article.

Articles will be printed at the discretion of the Editor, and no article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the article.

All copy must be in the hands of the editor by the end of the Board of Director's meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Articles submitted for publication may be hand or type written, an ASCII file on disk transmitted electronically via telephone modem, or on the ham bands using PACKET.

Ham related items for sale by the members will be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be re-submitted as often as desired. These ads must be non-commercial in nature.

Commercial ads will be run in return for the following donations to the club:

	Single Issue	Full Year
Business Card	$5.00	$25.00
Quarter Page	$10.00	$50.00
Half Page	$20.00	$100.00
Full Page	$30.00	$150.00

(Commercial ads must be of "camera-ready quality," and obviously can not be sent via ham bands.) Due to the reprographic process used, no color copy can be accepted.

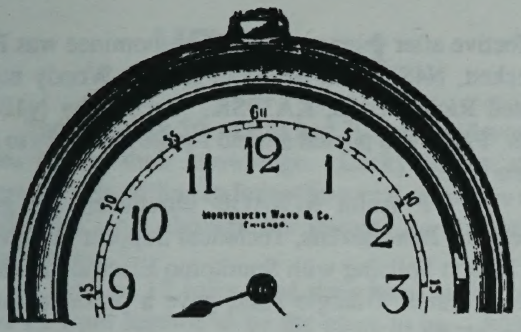
Advertisers are guaranteed a minimum monthly mailing of 400 copies.

1992 Editor: Mike Gingell, KN4BS
113 Trotters Ridge Drive
Raleigh, NC 27614
847-4779

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Young Ladies' Radio League

AMSAT



Minutes of the Meeting

The regular monthly board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the YMCA on Hillsborough St. on Jan 15th 1992. The meeting was called to order by KM4BU at 7:05. Members present at that time: KC4UQO, WA4PEN, KC4AQB, WA4MJF, KO4CK, N4BYO, KN4BS. Late arrivals: K4HF, KN4AQ, N4IQA, KB4MDZ, and AA4MY. Absent: N4VQT.

Motion by WA4PEN with second by N4BYO to approve the minutes of the December board meeting as corrected. None opposed.

Nominating committee reported that they were "working on it" and would try to get nominations in the February Exciter.

AA4MY was asked if the room size for VE exams to be given in the Auditorium Annex was sufficient and he opted that it would do.

Nothing new on the tax exempt status. The removal of digits to commence in February if no progress!

Discussion on the RARS birthday party for March. Committee to be chaired by Rick - KA3PSK. Motion by WA4MJF to set the price of the tickets for the birthday party not to exceed 66% of the cost of a pizza. This is to be set by the chair of the committee subject to approval of the VP. Seconded by N4BYO. Passed 6 in favor, 3 opposed. Tickets to be ready for sale at the February meeting.

Status from the awards committee. Need signature of current president on 4 blank pieces of paper (not to be confused with blank checks). The four outgoing officers will receive plaques. This is twice as many as usual, meaning the net cost will be more; however, the cost per plaque remained the same. Question raised as to whether using same vendor. Yes, though bids not solicited this year; but last year was the lowest and if a change were to be made, artwork costs would drive the price up.

N4IQA reported that the membership now stands at 458. No unpaid bills to date. He will have last years report at the next board meeting. Also a 5-year report showing the trends in spending of the club.

The UHF/VHF SIG has put together a long range plan. Questions on whether to publish the plan and how. Decided that the SIG should come back at the March meeting with preliminary figures for FY 93 and have copies at the next board meeting of their plan.

Since RARS owns the building that was placed on N4AG's property, it will be necessary to pay taxes on such building. WA4PEN moved that RARS accept responsibility for taxes on the shed. Second by KB4MDZ. Passed unanimously. This cost will be included in the budget for next year.

KN4AQ said that the Radio Shack flyers have all been handed out. N4BYO moved that RARS underwrite another $30 to print a reserve of pamphlets (500). Seconded by WA4MJF. Passed 7 for, non opposed.

N4BYO to ask Radio Shack if they would like to buy space in the Exciter. To report next board meeting.

WA4MJF stated Hamfest preparations are coming along. Anyone having potential volunteers, call KA3PSK so he can add them to the data base. KD4ACW Cyndi Wood has agreed to be his Administrative Assistant for the Fest.

Motion by KB4MDZ to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 9:36.

Liz White, KO4CK
Secretary

Wrong address on your Exciter?

Please contact the Club Treasurer who keeps the Membership lists up to date. Each month he provides me with a set of pre-printed labels. To correct a mistake on the label - go to the horse's mouth.

Mike - KN4BS

February Meeting Notes

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held 05 Feb 92 at the YMCA on Hillsborough St. The meeting was called to order by Walter KM4BU. Walter welcomed the 108 members and 17 guests.

Rick KA3PSK reported that the new software for the BBS should be installed and running in the next couple of weeks. The personal mail will not be moved, so be aware if there is anything you want saved. He also made the announcement that next month would be the RARS birthday party and that we would have a pizza party with salad, soft drinks and desert. Tickets to be sold in advance only for $3/ person. Rick also started a sign-up sheet around so that those who had not done so could sign up to help with the RARSfest. Since this is the big "money maker" for the club, it is important that all members, who are able, help with the event. Success depends on help from the members and means RARS can continue sponsoring events for the membership.

Bill KM4UO announced that a computer net would begin at 9:00 on Thursday the 6th for all interested parties. Also, a new radio club is forming in the area - the Orange County Radio Amateurs. At this point there are approximately 30 members and no dues are required. They are planning to hold classes in the near future.

Training Director, N4BYO Jim, said that RARS classes would start February 24. They are to be held at the Litchford Village Shopping Center. The size will be limited to 50 persons and will meet Monday/ Thursday for 6 weeks. If anyone would like to help with classes, contact Jim.

The VHF/UHF SIG will meet at KA3PSK's place on the 12th.

KD4ACT David has Flyers for the RARSFest. Those wishing to help with distribution should contact him for a supply.

Treasurer's report by Tim N4IQA showed RARS membership at 463.

The nominating committee submitted their nominee for the position of Vice President to complete the term of Anita KC4AQB who's resignation is effective after this meeting. Their nominee was Fran Beckett, N4SDQ. In addition, KJ4SO Woody nominated Rick Merkle, KA3PSK. Second by N4BYO Jim. Paper was passed around for the members to cast their vote.

VP Anita KC4AQB introduced the guest speaker. Ben Stevens, Technical Support Supervisor of Fusion Splicing with Sumitomo Electric located in the Research Triangle Park, gave a presentation on fiber optics.

After the program, results of the election were announced. Rick KA3PSK will fill the 1992 term of KC4AQB. The election was VERY close.

Prizes were awarded. KM4NF Marc won an International Call Book, WB4DRJ Lee a North American edition of the call book with supplement. KD4JML, K4FAD and KO4CK won gift certificates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

Liz White, KO4CK
Secretary

Crystal Clear

The RARs Crystals held their bimonthly meeting January 23, 1992 at the Shoney's on Avent Ferry Road in Raleigh. Sixteen ladies were in attendance. It was an enjoyable evening with much discussion about the upcoming RARS birthday party and the RARSfest/social. Meetings are held every other month at the same Shoney's. Next meeting will be March 26. All ladies licensed or unlicensed who have an interest in RARS are invited to join us.

KO4CK, Liz White
Crystals Chairperson

FOR SALE: Televideo 920-C dumb ASCII terminals. 9600 baud or higher, RS232 with printer port. Have several. Asking $10 ea. Great for starting packet. Joe Snyder, K3SPC, 783-7272(w), 781-0225(h).

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS520SE Transceiver with a Kenwood DG-5 Digital Frequency Display (External VFO) and a Drake HM2000 SWR/Watt meter. All Excellent condition. $525.00

VE Report

The February 5th exams had 30 hams and wannabees testing their knowledge. Lucky for us, there were 11 VEs willing to forgo the social amenities next door, and work through the evening so that others might enjoy.

A total of 17 folks tried their hand at the code, and 13 wpm seemed to be the place to be -- 80% of those who tried it came away with smiling faces. Fifty percent passed 20 wpm, and only 33% passed 5 wpm. The average pass rate by element was 77%.

Notable highlights of the evening were up-grades by "the code twins," **Bill Bressler, KC4UQO, and Doug Sweet, KC4UPZ.** I know for a fact that these guys have been working quite diligently with over-the-air practice sessions for 13 wpm. Way to go!

Also passing 13 wpm code and upgrading to General was **"Colt" Oviatt-Lawrence, KC4UQG.** It's always GREAT to see YLs passing that 13 wpm hurdle!

Congrats are also in order to **Lee Lewis, KN4AK.** Lee **aced the 20 wpm code test,** and went on to score very respectably on the Extra written. Congrats to **RARS' newest Extra: KN4AK!** Not far behind Lee, and now enjoying his Advanced privileges was **Max Bloodworth, KC4UQP.** Way to go!

A total of 14 No-Code Tech licenses were earned, including one by long time RARS member Russell Lyday. We hope some of the others, visiting RARS for the first time will return as members.

All in all, a VERY successful session, and one that couldn't have happened without the help of Rob AB4FY, Terry AB4VJ, Steve AB4EL, Glenn WA4LHE, Sonny KO4CI, Charlie W4VFJ, John K4FAD, Marty NY4H, Alan AB4OZ, and Lynn KO4QH. (Special thanks to Lynn, who sat with a severely handicapped individual and read (and re-read) several tests, and also to W4VFJ, who worked his first session with us.

Next area exams will be in Durham, Saturday, March 14th. If interested, contact Pete Goolsby, KY4Y @ 544-3215 or Charlie Bryan, AB4XF @ 682-8677.

The next RARS exams will be at the Hamfest, Sunday, April 12th. Pre-registration for the 'fest exams is REQUIRED. Mail your 610s to me! There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to the pre-registration requirement this year. (Last year I used up a week's worth of vacation time to get the 'fest exam paperwork straight & complete. It ain't gunna' happen again this year!!) My new motto: "Lack of planning on your part WILL NOT create an unnecessary hardship on my part!"

Again, I need at least 12 VEs to pull off the 'fest Exams. RARS VEs, please plan on helping! "Thanks for your support."

Till later ... 73!

Vince, AA4MY

RARS COORDINATED TO SECOND TWO-METER FREQUENCY

145.13 could become the frequency for a second RARS two-meter repeater. The SouthEastern Repeater Association frequency coordinator has approved that channel for a local coverage RARS repeater. The next steps will be to acquire funding and hardware, and then actually get a machine up and running.

The repeater must be local coverage because we will be sharing 145.13 with two repeaters in fairly easy range of Raleigh -- Ahoskie, about 100 miles northeast, and a mountaintop repeater in Galax, VA, about 145 miles northwest. "Local" coverage will mean something less that the current coverage on 146.64

A tentative location has been selected. Funding and hardware are open questions at this time. More details will be available at the club meeting.

- Gary Pierce, KN4AQ

PLAY A WIND INSTRUMENT?. Contact KM4BN Walter Price (481-3856) if interested in occasional RARS Function Performances.

RARS Training Benefits Members and Society

Our semiannual training programs provide an obvious benefit to the Society in the form of "Clumps" of new members who join at the conclusion of each class. Not as obvious, however, is the quality of the new members the classes infuse into the RARS family. Through the weeks of contact with our members who served as instructors and those who provided other direct forms of support to the classes, the graduates enter the Society ranks as "preconditioned" members familiar with the Society goals, its activities and many of its members.

I became involved with the RARS classes after my own graduation as a technician in the spring of 1989. In 1990 I became more involved with the course administration when the former Training Director, Jim N4BYO, took over his responsibilities as RARS President. I then served as Training Director through 1991. During those years I had the opportunity to work with a number of wonderfully dedicated hams, most of whom were RARS members. Through the courtesy of Mike, KN4BS, our Editor, I would like to personally thank those who contributed so skillfully and pleasantly to the success of the courses.

To the instructors who taught theory and rules and regulations my gratitude. They are: Jim N4BYO, John KK4JB, Gary N4USR, Steve AB4EL, Ed WA4PEN, Edward N4SSU, Chuck WB4TNC, Bert W4FMN, Pete KN4OO. and Jim N4ODA.

An extra serving of thanks to the code instructors who persevered through each entire course providing supplementary instruction before and after each class. It wasn't unusual for the code "guys" to be in session long after class ended even to the point of being asked to leave so the janitors could close the building. They are: Dave WZ1S, John K4FAD and Wayne WA4SNC. John pounded on me until I finally scraped by 13 wpm. Thanks John, and I wasn't even a student then.

Lynn KO4QH, and Allan AB4OZ were superb, an administrative dream come true. Both Pitegoffs were present at virtually every class. Lynn was my backup and deserves more credit than I. She had greater compassion for the individual needs of the participants than I had convinced myself I had time for. Alan organized great on the air operating sessions (Tune-In The World they are called) - a real plus to the class and ultimately to RARS.

Carl, KN4OQ, spent long hours on the computer so we could have a more complete syllabus.

Good wishes 'BYO, you are a tough act to precede.

73 - Bob Rinn, N4VQN

Public Service

This column has been absent for a few months as a result of my changing jobs and some good old procrastination. This year, I hope to have a more active Public Service involvement for RARS. So far the events I am aware of are two bike rides for MS, two walks (MS and March-of-dimes), and the state fair.

I hope I can recruit some of the new members to get involved and try to help at one of these events. It always seems to be the same core of members that help at the events and for any member who has not participated, I hope you will at least try it once.

It is important to realize that these type events are almost 100 percent volunteer organized and will not exist without them. This past year was the first that the local MS used amateur radio as their only source of communications and they were very happy with the results. In the past, they have had to rely on cellular telephones and CBs with poor results. Neither form of communications can offer the wide

coverage area that we can using 2 meters and a repeater. The MS 150 bike ride required covering an area of about 75 - 80 miles and it was only possible because of us. With that, I hope you will think about it when I start recruiting volunteers in the future.

73 Bill KC4UQO

Feb VHF/UHF SIG REPORT

The February meeting was held on the 12th at the home of Rick and Ginger Merkle. Attendance was excellent with the following twenty hams present: KD4FSN, KD4JMN, N4PNO, N4YTO, AB4FY, KA2FWC, AB4OZ, KO4QH, N4BYO, SM5LBR, WA4PEN, KN4AQ, KJ4SO, KD4BFJ, KD4IHW, KA3PSK, KB4MDZ, WA4LHE, KD4DNW, and KD4DNX.

Woody, KJ4SO, our new chairman called the meeting to order with some announcements and welcomed everyone.

Chuk, KB4MDZ, gave a report on the status of the letter requesting use of Wake County communications towers for RARS repeaters. The County wants a single contact for amateur radio issues and suggested we work through the ARES group. The SIG discussed the need for a RARS representative to coordinate with ARES and the need for a RARS emergency plan. Some SIG members are investigating further.

Gary, KN4AQ, is continuing to investigate another 2- meter repeater frequency. Efforts are underway in the SIG to assist the NC State University Ham Radio Club with a local repeater, possibly on the library building roof. Gary is also looking into new 440 Mhz frequencies for RARS repeaters so as to reduce interference.

Everyone please note... Gary has also suggested that RARS select an official 2-meter simplex frequency. So, get out those manuals and get ready to program in another frequency. Pending board approval, the frequency is 147.480 Mhz. If anyone knows a reason why we should not select this please contact Gary.

Rick, KA3PSK, reported that the RARS BBS is up and well. He is still working on the new software package. Rick also told everyone how important the RARSFEST is to our club. Everyone that can help, even if for only a couple of hours, please call Rick. He is taking names of those willing to help and connecting them with people who need it.

Woody, reported on the space shuttle Atlantis that is presently scheduled for launch March 14th. Hams can communicate with Atlantis via SAREX. Anyone interested call Woody. He also has PC software for tracking the shuttle.

Woody encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming VHF/UHF QSO PARTY in June. It is a great time for all to learn about multimode operation on all the VHF/UHF bands. Repeaters are only one of the exciting things available to hams on these bands. If interested in the contest please contact Dave, K4SAN, for details.

Woody ended the meeting by requesting all present to think "Where do you want the SIG to go from here"??? The meeting closed and we all thoroughly enjoyed the delicious desserts prepared by Ginger Merkle. Thanks Ginger, it was GOOOOOOOOD!!!!!

Glenn Clary, WA4LHE
SIG Secretary/Treasurer

SWL/SCANNER SIG

The first meeting of the new Shortwave Listeners/Scanner Special Interest Group was held on Monday, February 17 at 7PM. Fifteen people attended.

Discussions were held on how to promote the SIG to both hams and non-hams and possible future activities for the SIG. Information on the RCMA (Radio Communications Monitoring Association), a VHF/UHF bandplan and excerpts from the FidoNet Shortwave Echo was distributed to attendees. The low-cost "boombox" shortwave receiver available from DAK was demonstrated to interested SIG members (thanks to Mike KN4JA).

The next meeting of the SWL/Scanner SIG will be held on March 16 at 7PM at Don Murray's Barbecue, with subsequent meetings to be held on the third Monday of each month. Anyone interested in shortwave listening or scanners is welcome and non-hams are especially encouraged to participate. For more information contact Curt Phillips on the RARS BBS or at 772-0207.

Curt Phillips, KD4YU

TRIANGLE AREA REPEATERS

We've been hearing lots of new callsigns on the .64 repeater recently. The RARS fall graduates have gotten their tickets, as have many others. We welcome all of you who have decided to try two meters (and 220 and 440 MHz).

Here's a brief rundown of the repeaters you can use in the Triangle area, with maybe a little more information than the repeater directory provides.

(-) = 600 kHz minus offset. (+) = 600 kHz plus offset.

145.17 (-) Oxford. Local coverage, hits the North end of our territory.

145.45 (-) Durham FM Assn. repeater, operating from the VA hospital in Durham. Local coverage (pretty weak in most of Raleigh). Open autopatch covers Durham exchanges. Contact Pete KY4Y 544-3215

145.49 (-) Capitol Amateur Radio Society (CARS) repeater, TELETYPE ONLY, operating from North Raleigh. Contact Bill K4BWC 231-2829

146.64 (-) RARS. If you're reading this in the Exciter, you know all about this repeater.

146.67 (-) Burlington. Not really a Triangle repeater, but covers the Western part of the area. Open autopatch for Burlington area.

146.685(-) Grifton. A long ways away, but wide coverage brings its signal into Raleigh often. On PCRN link.

146.70 (-) Dunn. Covers Southern edge of Triangle.

146.73 (-) CARS voice repeater, with closed autopatch. Local coverage from N. Raleigh. See 145.49.

146.85 (-) Goldsboro, Can be heard when the band is just a little open.

146.88 (-) Piedmont Coastal Repeater Assn., at the 1450 foot level of the WRAL/WRDC tower. Raleigh access to the PCRN link system, which links repeaters from North Carolina, thru Virginia and West Virginia, and into Pennsylvania. Contact Ed AB4S, 469-1806.

146.91 (-) Fayetteville, can be heard on a good day.

146.94 (-) Durham. Nobody knows anything about this repeater (or at least nobody's talking).

146.97 (-) Johnston (County) Amateur Radio Society (JARS), transmits from down near Smithfield. If you've been around a while, JARS had their 147.27 repeater on this site until it moved to the WRAL/WRDC tower. Contact Dave KE4EM at 934-0486.

147.015(+) Triangle East ARA. This repeater isn't on the air yet, but should be in a few months, from a tall tower Southeast of Raleigh. It should have good coverage. Contact Kirk KK4YP at 965-9577.

147.075(-) another **Burlington** area repeater that catches our Western fringe.

147.105(+) PCRN repeater on the WKFT-TV (ch. 40, Fayetteville) tower, about 1600 feet up. Referred to by the tiny, nearby town of Broadway, this repeater has very wide area coverage. The antenna pattern is shielded to the Northwest, however, to protect a repeater in Virginia. Also on PRCN link system. See 146.88.

147.15 (+) PCRN's "local" Raleigh repeater, with closed autopatch. It's about 700 feet up the WYLT tower near Lake Wheeler, and the antenna is shielded to the South. Excellent coverage. See 146.88.

147.225(+) another **DFMA** repeater, with fairly wide coverage from a tower in Hillsborough. Open autopatch covers entire Triangle area. See 145.45.

147.27 (+) JARS shiny new repeater 850 feet up the WRAL/WRDC tower. Closed autopatch, and lots of other interesting functions. See 146.97.

147.36 (+) Durham. Another mystery repeater (at least to me). Local coverage, very quiet, with open autopatch.

147.39 (+) TEARA's currently operating repeater, with reasonable coverage from Clayton. Open autopatch covers Raleigh exchanges. See 147.015.

223.94 Sharp eye'd readers will notice we've jumped to the 220 band. This is **DFMA**'s 220 machine, with good coverage from the same location in Hillsborough as their 147.225 machine. Will change frequency soon, due to changes in the 220 band plan after loss of bottom two MHz. All 220 repeater inputs are "minus 1.6 MHz" offset.

224.64 **RARS** own 220 machine, currently operating from the Dean Whitter building in North Raleigh, making this a local coverage machine. It will move someday to a better site.

442.025 Another band change? You bet! And in this part of the country, all 440 machines have a "plus 5 MHz" offset. Some parts of the country are reversed. Oh, yes, this is the PCRN "Backbone" for their link system. If you have a 450 radio, use this frequency to access the link without tying up 146.88. But please don't use it as a local rag-chew machine, as it ties up the entire link (5 backbone repeaters) across three states. See 146.88.

444.0 **TEARA**'s 450 machine, talking from near Selma and covering the Eastern end of our territory. See 147.015.

444.1 **DFMA** on 450, with local coverage from the VA hospital in Durham. Open autopatch for Durham, and a "frequency agile" remote base. See 145.45.

444.5 **RARS** first 450, operated as WA4PEN by the VHF/UHF sig. It's currently on the Dean Whitter building with the 220 repeater, and fairly local coverage. If coordination is approved, this repeater will move to 444.525.

444.875 **RARS** experimental repeater, being tested at Aerotron in North Raleigh. We have requested coordination to this channel permenently. When finished, it will move to a higher location.

444.95 another **RARS** machine, currently located right next to the .64 repeater in North Raleigh.

- Gary, KN4AQ

VHF/UHF SIG PROPOSAL FOR RARS SIMPLEX FREQUENCY

An "official" RARS simplex two-meter FM frequency could be a very handy thing. I proposed the idea at the February VHF/UHF SIG meeting, and we agreed on some advantages:

-- Local Use: lots of us use the repeater when we are easily in simplex range. That's not necessarily bad. The repeater is a gathering place as much as a "range extender." I enjoy listening to other conversations. But it's also pretty busy. Getting familiar with using simplex would add versatility to our operating practice, and take some of the load off the repeater.

-- Alternative to .52: Those of us who do try to "go simplex" usually end up on 146.52, for lack of any easily identified alternative. That's not usually a problem either, since .52 isn't very busy locally. But sometimes it is busy. A RARS simplex frequency would give us a place to go with more of a club identity.

-- Club activities: RARS has lots of activities where an identified simplex channel would be helpful. Meetings, picnics, contest events, field day, hamfest, public service events, etc.

-- Hamfests (in and out of town): When we head to a hamfest, we lose touch with each other. .52 is too

busy. Several sub-groups of RARS members have chosen ad-hoc frequencies to monitor at hamfests. It's fun to share hamfesting with other club members. Nobody would *have* to use or monitor a RARS simplex frequency, but it would be there for those who want it.

So I think it's clearly a good idea. Several other members I've spoken to have encouraged it. How would it work? Pretty simply, We pick a channel, and everybody knows what the RARS Simplex channel is. Program it into your radio's memory (Ronnie would have to buy a crystal), and when you want to go simplex, you know just where to go.

Of course, RARS would never have *exclusive* use of any simplex channel. Frequency coordination, the band plan and gentlemen's agreement pretty much give us exclusive use of 146.64 in the Raleigh area, but simplex doesn't work that way. Still, most hams are cooperative, and if we choose a frequency wisely, few will want to give us a hassle. There's lots of simplex room on two-meters.

OK, now the $64,000 question: WHAT FREQUENCY?. Here are my suggested criterion:

-- It should be a Band-Plan channel. RARS is a major club, and should take responsibility for encouraging the Band-Plan.

-- It should be as far from 146.04/64, and 144.53/145.13 as possible. I see many circumstances where both the RARS simplex channel and the repeaters would be used at the same time from the same site. Maximum frequency separation will ensure minimum interference between those uses.

-- No other group around the Triangle (even a small one) should be using the channel on a regular basis already.

Based on those criterion, the VHF/UHF SIG recommended this frequency: 147.48

147.48 is almost as far away from 146.04/64 and 145.13 as the Band Plan provides. 147.51 would actually be the farthest available "simplex" frequency from .04/64, but there was a report of some regular use there, and there is packet use on 147.54. Some additional separation would be wise. Note that 147.48 is "unlisted" in the SERA directory. Their 147 MHz simplex channels start at 147.51. Some of the lower frequencies listed are used for repeater inputs (147.465 is the input for a 146.865 repeater in Waxhaw, NC, and Mountain Lake, VA). 147.48, though, is 600 kHz above 146.88. No repeaters are listed with (+) inputs for 146.88.

Well, what do you think? Any other suggestions, or problems with the ideas I've presented? Put them on the BBS, talk about it on the air and whatever. If there's no serious problem, RARS will have an "official" simplex frequency.

- Gary Pierce, KN4AQ

Ed. Note: At the Feb RARS Board meeting this was discussed and agreed in a motion that RARS would adopt 147.48.

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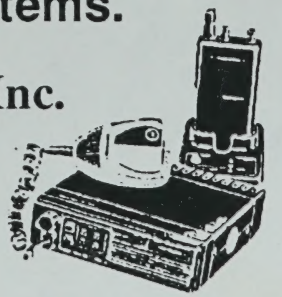

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Youth Net - Thursdays, 8:30 PM, 04/64
RARS Traders Net - Fridays, 9:00 PM, 04/64
Technical Information Net - Saturdays, 8:30 PM, 04/64
RARS Computer Bulletin Board: 676-8469 1200/2400 N81

Events Calendar

MAR	4	**RARS Annual Birthday Party** - 7pm, YMCA, Hillsborough St. Entrance by ticket; info Jim, N4BYO, 781-9437
MAR	7,8	Charlotte, NC Hamfest; ARRL Int'l DX Contest, phone
MAR	9	RARS Repeater Support Group, info: Chuk, KB4MDZ
MAR	11	VHF/UHF SIG Meeting, Info: Woody, KJ4SO
MAR	18	**RARS Board Meeting**, 7PM, YMCA, Hillsborough St.
MAR	23,24	CQ World-Wide WPX Contest, phone
MAR	25	RARS Homebrew SIG, Info Bill, N1BA, 846-2692
MAR	27,28	Antique Wireless Assoc Reg Conf., Monroe, NC/N4IQA
APR	12	**RARS 20th Annual HAMFEST/NC's ARRL Convention !!**